Educationally backward districts in Gujarat

7485. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the educationally backward districts in the country particularly in the State of Gujarat at present;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps for the upgradation of the education in Gujarat and other parts of the country; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) According to 1991 Census there are 250 districts in the country including 3 districts in Gujarat where literacy is below the national average of 52.51 percent. District-wise literacy rates are given in the Annual Report of the Ministry for the year 1992-93.

(b) and (c) A number of Central and State programmes are under implementation such as Operation Blackboard, Teacher Education, Non-Formal Education and Adult Education to promote educational development. The details of the Central schemes and the progress of implementation are given in the Annual Reports of the Ministry.

Appointment of Director-General of SAI

7486. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sports Authority of India (SAI) has been functioning without a Director-General for the last many months;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to appoint the Director-General; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to make the SAI a dynamic institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS): (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is continually evaluating its performance and taking steps to improve its functioning. Several measures have been taken in the recent past, which are as follows:—

(i) Evaluation of major SAI Schemes by Tata Consultancy Services;

(ii) Improving utilisation of SAI Stadias;

(iii) Considering extension of the duration of the course for training of coaches from 10½ months to 2 years;

(iv) Finalising of Long Term Development Plans for important disciplines after detailed discussions with national federations; and

(v) Increasing input of sport sciences and training methods in our coaching of national level players/teams.

Launching of Central Mid-Day Meal

7487. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to launch the Central mid-day meal programme from the ensuing academic year; and

(b) if so, what are the modalities of the Central Noon meal scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to participate in the phased expansion of the mid-day meals Schemes being implemented by the